

The Tithe in the Gospel and Nigerian Christians' Notion: An Analysis and Description Study

Issah Abeebllahi Obalowu (Nigerian)¹
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adibah bint Abdul Rahim²

Abstract

The worldview of Nigerian Christians about the monthly tithing to their local churches is well known to the public, as they believe in its obligation upon every Christian. However, the belief that resulted from the local churches leaders' preaching had been a dogma in the midst of Nigerian Christians. Recently, a Nigerian radio host and presenter, popularly known as Daddy Freeze came up with an idea of refuting offering tithe to the local churches, claiming that the act of offering tithe to them is contrary to Christ's teaching in the New Testament. He as well considered the act of tithing as a modern way of scam by those pastors. The move has created a kind of uproar and confusion within the Nigerian Christians community and led to different reactions from many renowned Nigerian pastors and evangelists. Thus, this research aims at studying the Tithe within the paradigm of the New and Old Testament; definition and origin of the tithe, what is to be given as a tithe and when, who is to give the tithe and to whom is to be given? All these issues will be discussed according to the Bible and Christians worldview.

Keywords: Nigerian, Christian, Tithe, Bible, New Testament, Old Testament.

Introduction

It is well known and strongly believed in the midst of Nigerian Christians that offering monthly tithe to the local churches is an obligatory service upon every Christian, which must be carried out monthly by giving ten percent of their monthly income to their local churches.³ However, the full authority of freehand and supervision of those tithes are given to the churches overseers, evangelists or missionaries without a slight interference from the churches members. The major concern of the churches members is offering the tithe regularly, despite their various economic states and conditions; no matter how poor or bad their states of being, offering tithe is their major concern. Perhaps this perspective and stance on the tithe resulted from their belief that offering tithe brings them fortune, prosperity, good luck, success and prevents them from all kinds of calamities and misfortunes. In fact, that belief is in accordance with their pastors' and missionaries' teachings.⁴ That had been the notion and doctrine of Nigerian Christians towards the tithe over number of years without any criticism, dispute, controversy or condemnation from within the system or from exterior of the system.

¹ Ph.D. Student of Uşul al-Din and Comparative Religion, International Islamic University Malaysia, Gombak, Kuala Lumpur, Email: abeebissa@yahoo.com, Phone no: +601111514458

² Associate Professor, Uşul al-Din and Comparative Religion, International Islamic University Malaysia, Gombak.

³ Yemisi Adegoke, "Nigerians debate giving 10% of their income to the church", *BBC News*, (19th April, 2018), <<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43286733>> (accessed 09/10/2018).

⁴ Sunday Ojo, Interview by Author, Ilorin, Kwara, 1 January, 2018.

Not long ago, a Nigerian radio host and presenter, popularly known as Daddy Freeze⁵ came up with an idea of refuting and rejecting offering the tithe to the local churches in Nigeria, claiming that the act of offering tithe to those local churches is in contrary with the Chris teachings in the New Testament. He as well considered the act of tithing as a modern way of scam by Nigerian pastors.⁶ Indeed, this move has created uproar within the Nigerian Christians community. On the other hand, some of Nigerian pastors and evangelists have reacted to the matter in different ways. Below are the few of their responses regarding the issue:

Views of some top figures among Nigerian pastors about the tithe

Most of Nigerian pastors especially renowned ones advocate the mandatory of paying the monthly tithe and emphasize on its significance in payers' lives. Consequently, their response to Daddy Freezee's challenge came as follows:

- "Daddy Freeze may not live to see 2018". Pastor Nicholas Uagbor says in response to Daddy Freeze's challenge.⁷
- "How tithe is spent is not the payer's business". Prophet Abiara (the general evangelist of the Christ Apostolic church) and other men of God say on tithing.⁸
- According to Bishop Oyedepo⁹ "Not paying tithe is disobeying the scriptures and God doesn't bless those who disobey him." And "Windows of heaven will be shut on non-tithers."¹⁰

⁵ Ifedayo Olarinde, popularly called Freeze is a Nigerian radio host and presenter. He was born in Osun State Nigeria to a Nigerian father and a Romanian mother. He had his O. Level and Bachelor's Degree in Nigerian Schools. Ifedayo started his radio career in 1996 with the Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS), Ibadan and joined Cool FM in 2001 working in radio presenting, television and general entertainment. He is a senior broadcaster at Cool FM Lagos. He won the favorite Nigerian OAP at the 2014 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daddy_Freeze. (accessed 25 December, 2017).

⁶ Tope Olowoniyan [Interviewer], & Daddy Freeze [Interviewee], *If you don't want to stop paying tithe, then don't watch our explosive interview with Daddy Freeze*, [T.V Program], Linda Ikeji T.V, Published on Sep 30, 2017, Via YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWPjBzau_W8 (accessed 09/10/2018).

⁷ Pastor Nicholas Uagbor, "Daddy Freeze, May Not Live To See 2018", *Abiyamo – The Blog for Nigerian & The World*, 12/12/2017, <<https://abiyamo.com/daddy-freeze-may-not-live-see-2018-pastor-nicholas-uagbor-says/>>. (accessed 27 December, 2017); Online Nigeria, "Daddy Freeze, May Not Live To See 2018, Pastor Nicholas Uagbor Says" 12/12/2017, <<https://www.onlinenigeria.com/site/stories/414392-daddy-freeze-may-not-live-to-see-2018-pastor-nicholas-uagbor-says.html>> (accessed 30/07/2018).

⁸ Prophet Abiara and other pastors, "How tithe is spent is not the payer's business", *Information Nigeria*, 13/12/2017, <<https://www.informationng.com/2017/12/tithe-spent-not-payers-business-prophet-abiara-men-god-speak-tithing.html>> (accessed 27 December, 2017).

⁹ David O. Oyedepo is a Nigerian Christian author, architect, preacher, the founder and presiding Bishop of the mega church Faith Tabernacle in Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, and Living Faith Church Worldwide, also known as Winners' Chapel. Oyedepo is the senior pastor of Faith Tabernacle, a 50,000-seat church auditorium, reported to be the largest church auditorium in the world by the Guinness Book of Records. The Winners' Chapel network of churches is in over 300 cities, in all states of Nigeria, as well as, in several cities in 45 African nations, Dubai, the United Kingdom and the United States. Oyedepo has been one of the pioneers of the Christian charismatic movement in Africa and has been referred to as one of the most powerful preachers in Nigeria. He is the Chancellor of Covenant University and Landmark University. He was named in 2011 by Forbes magazine as being the richest pastor in Nigeria. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Oyedepo>.

¹⁰ David O. Oyedepo, "Windows of heaven will be shut on non-tithers", *Vanguard online community*, (11/12/2017). <<http://community.vanguardngr.com/forum/topics/windows-of-heaven-will-be-shut-on-non-tithers-bishop-oyedepo>> (accessed 25 December, 2017).

- “Do not attract God’s curse to yourself, please pay your tithe.”¹¹ Says pastor Adeboye.¹²
- Oritsejafor¹³ says regarding the tithe:

I know there are some people telling you not to pay tithe. Don’t listen to them. They want to kill you. You go die quick. Your tithe is not about you, it’s about your children. The Bible says when Levi was still in the system, he was already paying tithe. Your tithe is not about you, it’s about your children, it is about your children’s children. Levi was still in the picture, he was paying tithe. Don’t let anybody deceive you.¹⁴

From the above responses, the opinion of some prominent Nigerian pastors on the tithe is apparently clear. As they all emphasize on the importance of offering the tithe and warn of repercussion of not giving the tithe. Nevertheless, this introduction will be actually considered incomplete if I don’t share the financial status of some top Nigerian pastors with the readers. Thus, it should be known that among the few figures that own private jets in Nigeria are number of pastors,¹⁵ among who are:

1. T.B. Joshua: He is the leader and founder of The Synagogue Church of All Nations. He reportedly acquired a Gulfstream G550 aircraft worth about \$60million in April 2015.
2. Ayo Oritsejafor: He is the president of the Christian Association of Nigeria and owns a Bombardier jet which he said was a gift.
3. Pastor Enoch Adeboye: He is the head of the Redeemed Church of God and owns a Gulfstream GIV (N707EA) registered as E. Adeboye / Emmanuel Aviation.
4. Bishop David Oyedepo: He is the General Overseer of the Winners Chapel and has a total of four jets.

¹¹ Pastor Adeboye, “Do not attract God’s curse to yourself, please pay your tithe”, *Pulse.ng*, 06/11/2017, Refreshed: 23/11/2017, <<http://www.pulse.ng/communities/religion/do-not-attract-god-s-curse-pay-your-tithe-pastor-adeboye-id7560046.html>> (accessed 26 December, 2017).

¹² Enoch Adejare Adeboye is a Nigerian pastor. He was ordained General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in 1981. Other names: Daddy GO or Pastor Adeboye or Daddy and Prophet of the World. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enoch_Adeboye>. Accessed 28 December, 2017.

¹³ Ayodele Joseph Oritsegbubemi Oritsejafor, known as Papa Ayo Oritsejafor, is the founding and Senior Pastor of Word of Life Bible Church, located in Warri, Nigeria. He became the National President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) on February 7, 2005, a position he held for five years. In July 2010, Oritsejafor was elected as the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), the apex body of all Christians in the country. In doing so he became the first Pentecostal leader to hold the position. Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor Ministries was the first to launch a Miracle crusade (Lagos Miracle Crusade) from Africa to world audience, via satellite, in 1987 with evangelist Joe Martins. Oritsejafor is today not only a pastor; he is a teacher, evangelist, prophet, author, philosopher, and philanthropist. He is a father, a friend and a mentor to millions of people around the world. He is a proponent of leadership by example. This is evident in the role he played in bringing the crisis in Niger Delta area of Nigeria to an end. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayo_Oritsejafor>. Accessed 19/12/2017.

¹⁴ Oritsejafor, “Oritsejafor says ‘tithers’ will not die”, *Vanguard newspaper*, 12/10/2017, <<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/12/oritsejafor-says-tithers-will-not-die/>> (accessed 25 December, 2017).

¹⁵ Sherif, “List of Pastors with the Private Jets in Nigeria”, *Naijaquest.com*, 26 May, 2018, <<https://naijaquest.com/pastors-with-private-jets-in-nigeria/>> (accessed 09/10/2018); Forbes, “Wealthy Nigerians, Pastors Spend \$225 million on Private Jets”, *Forbes*, 17th May, 2011, <<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2011/05/17/wealthy-nigerians-pastors-spend-225-million-on-private-jets/#39a3fff93b44>> (accessed 09/10/2018).

Whereas, some churches members that offer the tithe to those pastors cannot afford getting their daily bread.

In this case, I will like to discuss in this paper: definition of the tithe, origin and status of the tithe in the Old and New Testament, what is to be given as a tithe, who is to give the tithe, to whom it should be given and when is to be given? All the issues will be discussed according to the Bible and Christians worldview.

Definition of the Tithe

There are different perspectives on what is meant by the tithe in Christianity, due to imprecise definition from the Old and New Testament. Moreover, today' system of tithing that is known in Christianity was neither in existence nor in practice at the early stage of church history. History states that for many centuries there was no systematic tithing or demand for support from the church members, however the idea of tithing arose many centuries later in order to sustain the religious empires made by men.

The New Catholic Encyclopedia, States on the article on “Tithes,” on page 174, of the 1967 edition; states that the early Church did not have a tithing system. The Old Testament tithing was regarded as being abrogated by the New Testament law of Christ. However, as the church system expanded and became more complex and was more financially demanding, it became necessary to introduce a definite rule on giving which people followed out of a sense of moral obligation or by enforcement of law. The Old Testament practice of tithing was an obvious model, and it began to be taught, mainly in the Western churches, that believers should give tithes of their income. When this view had gathered sufficient support, it was given legal support in parts of the Church. In A.D. 585, the council of Macon threatened excommunication on those who refused to pay their tithes. Other local councils made similar decisions, but the repeated warnings of penalties that were to be imposed on those who failed to pay their tithes suggests that they were paid irregularly and reluctantly.¹⁶

According to the light house church: Tithe is the common English translation for the Old Testament Hebrew word asar. It comes from an Old English root meaning “one tenth”. “The tithe was an offering of one's agricultural income to the Lord as an expression of thanks and dedication.” In the Old Testament tithes were paid from only the agricultural fruits of the promised land (Jerusalem) not from other forms of income, so tithes were paid in crops or livestock only, not in cash, gold or goods.¹⁷

¹⁶ The New Catholic Encyclopedia, as cited in *Tithing and giving In The Scriptures And Church History*. <<http://truthforthe lastdays.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Tithing-In-The-Scriptures-And-Church-History.pdf>>. p8 (accessed December 29, 2017).

¹⁷ Light house church, What is the tithe? in *Tithing and Giving Questions*. 1, <lighthousechurch.tv/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Tithing-and-Giving-Article.pdf>. accessed 27 December 2017.

Dictionary.com states that: “The tenth part of agricultural produce or personal income set apart as an offering to God or for works of mercy, or the same amount regarded as an obligation or tax for the support of the church, priesthood, or the like .”¹⁸

The Lexicon of Evangelical Christianity defines the tithe as “a tenth of one’s income, particularly as offered to God”, and as the practice of “giving one tenth of the believer’s income for the purpose of supporting church operations.”¹⁹

Another study stated that the simplest definition of tithe that is broadly accepted by a large population of Christians is “a tenth of one’s increase”, however they debate on whether it is off your gross increase or your net increase.²⁰

“The tithe was an obligatory offering from the law of Moses requiring 10 percent of an Israelite’s first fruits. Because God provided the harvest, this first part was returned to him. It was a reminder to Israel that all things we have are his. It was a show of thankfulness for his provision. It also provided for the Levitical priesthood, festivals, and the needy.”²¹

On the other hand, some Christians believe that someone has to offer and give according to his/her capability and desire, as it is believed by Most of protestant churches and Catholics.²²

Genesis of the tithe

The first tithe in the history according to the Biblical teaching was that which was offered by Abraham to the priest of God king of Salem, the king of righteousness named Melchizedek, as a gratitude to God for the victory. (Genesis 14: 18-20). Jacob as well gave the tenth of his belongings to the God in fulfillment of his vow and as a sign of acknowledgement to God for His provisions and care upon him. (Genesis 28: 20-22).

It needs to be highlighted that in both cases mentioned above, the tithe was offered voluntarily and willingly. Jacob offered his own as an acknowledgement to God and fulfillment of his vow. While Abraham gave the tenth of the plunder as a sign of recognition of God’s favour upon him and a gratitude to Melchizedek after he had blessed him. Moreover, those tithes were offered in both cases once in their life. (Hebrews 7: 1-5).

Tithe in the Mosaic Law (Old Testament)

Tithe was mainly made compulsory on the people of Israel. It is apparently clear according to the verses of the Bible that offering tithe was ordained and made obligatory on the people of Israel by giving out ten percent of their wealth to the Lord, for that percentage is not theirs, but it is considered holy to the Lord.²³

¹⁸ Dictionary.com. Definition of tithe. <<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/tythe>>.

¹⁹ Lexicon of Evangelical Christianity, as cited in Ervin Budiselic, “The Role and the Place of Tithing in the Context of Christian Giving Part 1”, *Kairos Evangelical Journal of Theology*, Vol. VIII, no.2, (2014): 144.

²⁰ Jared Bartholomew. Tithe definition in tithing. (2008) < <http://www.tithing.com/blog/tithe-definition/>> Accessed 23/12/2017.

²¹ Jayson D. Bradley, 20 Bible Verses about Tithing, via pushpay, <https://pushpay.com/blog/20-bible-verses-about-tithing/> (accessed 11/10/2018).

²² E. budiselic, The role and the place of tithing, 145.

²³ What is the tithe? in Tithing and Giving Questions. 1; Leviticus: 30-34; 2 Chronicles 31:4-5.

Purposes of the Israelites tithes in the Mosaic law

Israelites tithes were used for the following purposes:

- **Compensation for the Levites**²⁴

Israelites were ordered in different places in the Bible to give their tithes to the Levites. (Numbers 18:21, 18:26, 18:30-32).

- **Provision for the Priests**

Levites were to give the priests from the tithes which they had received from the Israelites. In Number: “In this way you also will present an offering to the Lord from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites. From these tithes you must give the Lord’s portion to Aaron the priest.” (Number 18: 28).

- **To take care of orphans, widows, poor ones, sojourners and to provide for the festivals and celebration**

Israelites were enjoined to bring their burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, special gift, freewill offerings and firstborn of their herds and flocks to their place of worship in the presence of the Lord for the Levites and public consumption during the festival. (Deuteronomy 12: 6-7; Deuteronomy 14: 28-29).

- **House of God and to the priests ministering there**

It has been written in the law that Israelites would bring their livestock to the house of God to the priest ministering there. (Nehemiah 10: 36-39).

According to the verses stated above, it is obvious that the tithe was made compulsory for the specific purposes which are seeming to be no more or less than benevolent and humanitarian purposes. As it is to be given for taking care of orphans, widows, poor ones, sojourners and to provide for the festivals and celebration, in fact this serves as an aid to the people of lower privilege in the society. The portion that is dedicated to the Levites and priests was aimed to better their welfare due to their commitment to the work of God which prevents them from struggling for their daily needs, particularly Levites whom are deprived from inheriting from Israelite properties. The portion is not dedicated to them as a means of monopolizing wealth within themselves only.

Periodic interval between each tithe

Israelite were ordained to offer their tithe once in every year. In the Bible: “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.” (Deuteronomy 14: 22). “We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the first fruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.” (Nehemiah 14: 35).

²⁴ The Levitical priesthood began with Aaron, the older brother of Moses (Exodus 28:1–3). Aaron’s descendants served as the priests in Israel, ministering in the tabernacle and, later, the temple, primarily as mediators between man and God. The Levitical priests bore the responsibility of offering the sacrifices required by the Mosaic Law. Some of the Levitical priests in the Bible are Ezra; Eli; and Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. The term Levitical is derived from the Israelite tribe of Levi. Levi was the third son of Leah and Jacob (Genesis 29:34) and the father of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of Moses and Aaron. Accessed 10/12/2017 <https://www.gotquestions.org/Levitical-priesthood.html>; Look: numbers 18: 1-20.

Tithe in the New Testament

Tithe is mentioned briefly in about three places in the New Testament. In the book of Mark (12: 41-44), it is no more or less than the offering was done in the presence of Jesus without any allusion from the Jesus or context of the verses indicated that what was carried out at that moment was what so called tithe of today. In as much as Christianity urges its follower to offer charity as much as they can afford without any compulsion or limitation. Perhaps, what was done in the presence of Jesus was a kind of almsgiving.

In the book of Mathew and Luke, a kind of reproachful speech was directed to the certain sect of Israelites and no more. Of course, there is neither a slight allusion nor a small indication in the New Testament to the imposition of so called tithe of today on Christians. Particularly when Christians believe that mosaic laws are not applicable to them, the belief that justifies their abandonment and rejection of those laws, including tithe. (Mathew 23: 23; Luke 11: 42).

What kind of charity is requested from the Christians?

Christians are required to give generously with the free will from one's heart and cheerfulness without any compulsion from any one, but mainly for the God sake. Bible says:

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9: 6-8).

Comparison between Nigerian churches' system of tithing and biblical teaching

It is apparently clear from the above discussion that the tithe was mainly made compulsory on Israelites, for the support of Levites and priests, (Levites whose services included caring for the poor in Israel's welfare state) and other benevolent and humanitarian purposes.

In contrary to this purpose, today's tithes in Nigerian system are mainly dedicated to the churches which are under the control of pastors. As a matter of the fact, those tithes serve as a means of building their own kingdom and accumulating a treasury, while some members of their churches are dying of hunger and poverty. Those tithes have been used for building of some huge churches which have become the evangelists' properties that will be inherited by their heirs; no member of their churches can claim it or entitle to a small portion of the kingdom. The tithes have also been used for the establishment of universities, i.e. Covenant University, Land Mark University, those which some average members of the churches cannot afford enrolment their children in, let alone the poor ones among the members, due to the expensive fees of those institutions.

Certainly, that practice is totally contradictory with the purposes of offering tithes in the Mosaic laws, which is the likelihood source of the evidence for the supporter of the tithe. As a matter of the fact, this tithe has hindered the act of other charities which Jesus has encouraged and called for; how can a Christian give alms to the poor or engage in any other social benevolence, when he is to give ten percent of his monthly income to the church?

Some Nigerian pastors' perspectives on the tithe is wholly paradoxical and contradictory with the teaching of Jesus in the New Testament, as well as Old Testament. Neither had Jesus made tithing

compulsory nor he stipulated a certain punishment for he who refuses to tithe, but he encouraged his followers to be giving generously with a cheerful heart.

In the whole history of tithing, from Abraham, Jacob to the Israelite, it was either offered once in giver's life or once in a year, while in Nigerian churches tithes are offered on monthly basis.

Those attitudes from Nigerians pastors towards the tithe show that the tithe is a means of making money by the churches leaders. This conclusion is in line with some findings: "Historians state that for several centuries there was no support or demand for systematic tithing. The following encyclopedias confirm that demands for people to tithe arose many centuries later in order to sustain the religious empires made by men."²⁵ Hastings Dictionary of the Apostolic Church says: "It is admitted universally that the payment of tithes or the tenth of possessions for sacred purposes did not find a place within the Christian church during the age covered by the apostles and their immediate successors ".²⁶

Conclusion

These facts have revealed from the above study:

1. Nigerian evangelists and missionaries have taken the advantage of tithe to build their own kingdom.
2. Christians have different views on tithing.
3. Tithe is mainly made compulsory on the Israelite for the benevolent and humanitarian purpose.
4. There is neither an allusion nor any indication in the New Testament showing the imposition of the tithe on Christians.
5. Christians are only encouraged to give generously with a free will from one's heart without any compulsion.
6. Finally, there is no correspondence between the system of tithing in Nigerian churches and the teaching of Jesus, even with the Mosaic laws.

²⁵ Tithing and giving In The Scriptures And Church History, 9.

²⁶ Bible Research, what historians say about New Testament Tithe, in Did apostle collect tithe? http://www.bibleresearch.org/broadcasts/pdf/did_apostles_collect_tithes.pdf 5 (accessed 11/10/2018).

References:

- Bartholomew Jared. (2008). Tithe definition in tithing. Retrieved December 23, 2017. <http://www.tithing.com/blog/tithe-definition/>.
- Bible Research. (n.d). what historians say about New Testament Tithe, in Did apostle collect tithe? Retrieved October 11, 2018. http://www.bibleresearch.org/broadcasts/pdf/did_apostles_collect_tithes.pdf 5.
- David O. Oyedepo. (2017, December 11). “Windows of heaven will be shut on non-tithers”. *Vanguard online community*. Retrieved December 25, 2017. <http://community.vanguardngr.com/forum/topics/windows-of-heaven-will-be-shut-on-non-tithers-bishop-oyedepo>.
- Dictionary.com. Definition of tithe. Retrieved October 3, 2018. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/tythe>.
- Ervin Budiselic. (2014). “The Role and the Place of Tithing in the Context of Christian Giving Part 1”. *Kairos Evangelical Journal of Theology*. Vol. VIII, no.2, : 143-162.
- Forbes. (2011, May 17). “Wealthy Nigerians, Pastors Spend \$225 million on Private Jets”. *Forbes*. Retrieved October 9, 2018. 17th May, 2018. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2011/05/17/wealthy-nigerians-pastors-spend-225-million-on-private-jets/#39a3fff93b44>.
- Holy Bible. New International Version (NIV).
- Jayson D. Bradley. (n.d). 20 Bible Verses about Tithing. Retrieved October 11, 2018. <https://pushpay.com/blog/20-bible-verses-about-tithing/>.
- Light house church. (n.d). “What is the tithe? in Tithing and Giving Questions”. Retrieved December 27, 2017. lighthousechurch.tv/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Tithing-and-Giving-Article.pdf.
- Online Nigeria. (2017, December 12). “Daddy Freeze, May Not Live To See 2018, Pastor Nicholas Uagbor Says” Retrieved October 09, 2018. <https://www.onlinenigeria.com/site/stories/414392-daddy-freeze-may-not-live-to-see-2018-pastor-nicholas-uagbor-says.html>.
- Oritsejafor. (2017, October 12). “Oritsejafor says ‘tithers’ will not die”. *Vanguard newspaper*. Retrieved December 25, 2017. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/12/oritsejafor-says-tithers-will-not-die/>.

- Pastor Adeboye. (2017, November 6). "Do not attract God's curse to yourself, please pay your tithe". *Pulse.ng*. Retrieved December 26, 2017. <http://www.pulse.ng/communities/religion/do-not-attract-god-s-curse-pay-your-tithe-pastor-adeboye-id7560046.html>.
- Pastor Nicholas Uagbor. (2017, December 12). "Daddy Freeze, May Not Live To See 2018". *Abiyamo – The Blog for Nigerian & The World*. Retrieved December 27, 2017. <https://abiyamo.com/daddy-freeze-may-not-live-see-2018-pastor-nicholas-uagbor-says/>.
- Prophet Abiara and other pastors. (2017, December 13). "How tithe is spent is not the payer's business". *Information Nigeria*. Retrieved December 27, 2017. <https://www.informationng.com/2017/12/tithe-spent-not-payers-business-prophet-abiara-men-god-speak-tithing.html>.
- Sherif. (2018, May 26). "List of Pastors with the Private Jets in Nigeria". *Naijaquest.com*. 26 May, 2018. Retrieved October 9, 2018. <https://naijaquest.com/pastors-with-private-jets-in-nigeria/>.
- Sunday Ojo. (2018, January 1st). Interview by Author. Nigeria: Ilorin, Kwara state.
- Tithing and giving In The Scriptures And Church History. (n.d). Retrieved December 29, 2017. <http://truthforthealastdays.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Tithing-In-The-Scriptures-And-Church-History.pdf>.
- Tope Olowoniyi [Interviewer], & Daddy Freeze [Interviewee]. (2017, September 30). "If you don't want to stop paying tithe, then don't watch our explosive interview with Daddy Freeze". [T.V Program], *Linda Ikeji T.V.* retrieved October 09, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWPjBzau_W8.
- Yemisi Adegoke. (2018, April 19th). "Nigerians debate giving 10% of their income to the church". *BBC News*. Retrieved October 09, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43286733>.